

From the desk of.....

**William F. Nemecek**

2617 Mt. Isle Harbor Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28214-5413  
(704) 398-9703 Fax (704) 398-0077  
Internet: powersolutions@iname.com

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January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

During this period of public comment, I want my opinion entered into the public record. Although I do not believe that Microsoft has ever operated as a monopoly, I think it serves this country to let the settlement, delivered by the Appeals Court, to happen without delay.

As a retired employee of IBM, I have witnessed antitrust lawsuits with IBM, and have seen the tendencies to always pick on the big guy, the one who has the greater market share, the company who has forged ahead with incredible innovation to separate themselves from the rest of the pack. From the point of view of the consumer/taxpayer, the antitrust suit against Microsoft was unfounded, has caused Microsoft to spend millions of dollars on their defense and the consumer ends up paying, not saving. The suit served as an agenda of a few companies to knock down the giant to create an "even playing field," rather than create and demonstrate superiority with their own products as many other companies have done.

Microsoft is still embroiled in more litigation. Please do not continue to punish a company for having great success and innovation with their products. The consumer and taxpayer ends up paying as a result. Microsoft has agreed to the terms that extend far beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit, for the sake of wrapping up the suit. It is time to move on.

As a taxpayer and consumer, I urge you to please allow the current proposed settlement to be enforced. The black cloud this suit has over Microsoft needs to be lifted and would significantly effect the economic situation in this country. Microsoft sees how important it is to get back to building success and innovative products. So do I.

Sincerely,



William Nemecek